

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for the purification of antigen specific T cells, comprising:
- contacting a source of MHC class I protein associated with a specific antigen with a population of T cells, wherein said MHC class I protein contains a detectable marker;
 - incubating the MHC class I protein associated with the specific antigen together with the population of T cells for a period of time sufficient for the T cells to acquire the MHC class I protein associated with the specific antigen from the source; and
 - identifying the T cells that have acquired the detectable marker.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said source of MHC class I protein associated with a specific antigen containing a detectable marker is a recombinant cell expressing MHC class I protein fused with a fluorescent protein.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said fluorescent protein is green fluorescent protein.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein said recombinant cell is a Drosophila cell.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying of the T cells that have acquired the detectable marker is done by detecting fluorescence emission of the detectable marker.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying of the T cells that have acquired the detectable marker is done by detecting fluorescence emission of the detectable marker in a fluorescence activated cell sorter.